



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2010

No. 38

Senate

The Senate met at 10:15 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offering the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Fountain of all light and glory, giving life and light and joy, Your greatness and power continue to amaze us.

Today, guide our Senators with Your abiding love. Keep them brave before their fears, pure in their battle against temptations, and true to the duty You have called them to fulfill. May they seek in their times of need the shadow of Your presence, ready to bless even before they ask You.

Lord, take us all as we are and make us by Your grace what we ought to be.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m. Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time until 10:30 equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees and with the time from 10:30 until 12:30 equally divided, with the majority controlling the first half of that time and the Republicans controlling the second half. The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons. When the Senate reconvenes at 2:15, we will resume consideration of H.R. 1586, the FAA reauthorization legislation. Senators should be prepared for rollcall votes this afternoon in relation to amendments to the FAA bill.

The reason I talked about the time equally divided and controlled between Democrats and Republicans, according to how long Senator McCONNELL might take, it may not be the full 2 hours, but it will be very close.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2314

Mr. REID. Madam President, I understand that H.R. 2314 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2314) to express the policy of the United States regarding the United

States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity.

Mr. REID. I object to the matter being placed on the calendar.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the matter will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, the President recently noted that everything there is to say about health care has already been said. When it comes to the substance of the legislation, this may be true. I suspect that is why an overwhelming majority of Americans oppose it. Americans know exactly what is in this bill, and they have rejected it. They do not want this bill to pass.

But there is still a lot to be said about the process Democrats are using to force this bill through. That won't change whether they get their votes this week or not. The fact is, the die has already been cast on this Congress. Democratic leaders have been imploring Members to make history—make history, they say—by voting for this bill. But this Congress is already guaranteed to go down in history—not for any piece of legislation but for the arrogant way it has dictated to the American people what is best for them and for the ugly way in which it has gone about getting around the will of the American people. Democratic leaders have made it perfectly clear that they view their constituents as an obstacle, particularly on the issue of health care. At every turn, they have

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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